

Homecoming Parade Kicks Off Weekend Festivities



Braves Victory Sets Tone for 2018 Homecoming Weekend. For extended coverage, look on page 9.PN/Trevon Knight

Voting: All You Need to Know About Midterms

By Abaigeal Brown & Mason Miller
Beyond Campus Editor & Managing Editor

As the general election date of Nov. 6 reaches closer on the calendar, residents of all counties in their home states have been preparing to vote for local and state-wide officials.

Early voting began on Oct. 17 and although the deadline to register to vote in North Carolina was Oct. 12, One-Stop early voting locations will be open until the third of November and will give citizens the opportunity to register and vote early at designated locations.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot, which allows residents to vote in another county outside of the one they are registered in will be 5 p.m. on Oct. 30.

Polling locations on general election day will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. To find a local polling place near you, as well as other voting-related information, visit the website vt.ncsbe.gov/PPLkup.

Explanations of Constitutional Amendments

Right to Hunt and Fish Amendment: “Constitutional amendment protecting the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife.”

EXPLANATION: This amendment will enforce the constitutional right of citizens to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife in traditional methods although “traditional methods” has not been defined in the amendment. The proposed amendment has also been criticized for being supported by the National Rifle Association. People fear that this could influence future rulings on gun regulations in parks and other public spaces.

Changes to Current Victims’ Rights Amendment: “Constitutional amendment to strengthen protections for victims of crime; to establish certain absolute basic rights for victims; and to ensure the enforcement of these rights.”

EXPLANATION: This amendment is a proposal of Marsy’s Law, a law that is designed to give rights to victims of crime. Some of these rights would be informing them on court proceedings, the right to be heard at sentencing, the right to receive information pertaining to the facts of the case, updates on the case. This amendment would be the first amendment that stands for rights of victims of crime in the constitution outside of felony and/or domestic violence charges.

Cap Maximum State Income Tax at 7 percent Amendment: “Constitutional amendment to reduce the income tax rate in North Carolina to a maximum allowable rate of seven percent.”

EXPLANATION: Although the briefing seems to be straight forward, this amendment could alter much more

\$2 million awarded to Local Colleges for Low-Income-Students Affected by Storm

By Jessica Horne
Editor-In-Chief

On Oct. 2, U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos said that \$2 million would be designated to help students who were significantly impacted by Hurricane Florence.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, “The money is being made available through the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) program. Each year, the Department awards supplemental funding for the program from amounts returned unused by other institutions participating in FSEOG.”

Additionally, a stipulation of the grant is that the institutions give first priority to students who are classified as low-income, meaning students who rely heavily on Pell grants as a primary source of funding for higher education.

According to the News and Observer, “Nearly \$2 million will go to students in North Carolina, and

about \$800,000 to students in South Carolina.

The money is targeted at 38 community colleges and universities in counties designated for public assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.”

The 24 NC institutions that will receive funding from the FSEOG are as follows: Beaufort County Community College, Brunswick Community College, Carteret Community College, Craven Community College, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville Technical Community College, The Methodist University Inc., James Sprunt Community College, Heritage Bible College Inc., Johnston Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Lenoir Community College, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Coastal Carolina Community College, Pamlico Community College, East Carolina University, Pitt Community College, Richmond Community College,

University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Sampson Community College, University of Mount Olive Inc., Wayne Community College, Barton College and Wilson Community College.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke is set to receive \$183,550 in FSEOG funding.

Among the highest funded by the grant are East Carolina University with \$330,718, Pitt Community College with \$254,054 and Fayetteville State University with \$197,528.

“The Department will continue to do all that it can to assist students, faculty and institutions in the Carolinas as they work to recover from this disaster,” DeVos said in a news release regarding the grant.

For a complete listing of FSEOG funding, you can visit the U.S. Department of Education’s website at <https://www.ed.gov/> or call 1-800-872-5327 for more information.

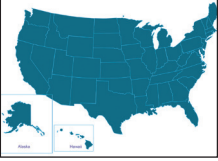
than it shows on the surface. The cap on income tax will be lowered from 10 percent to 7 percent but this lowering could impact other state emergency funding.

Require Photographic Identification to Vote Amendment: “Constitutional amendment to require voters to provide photo identification before voting in person.”

EXPLANATION: This amendment is said to be particularly discriminatory, being less-inclusive than Mississippi’s photo ID law. 381,000 registered voters in North Carolina do not have photo identification. A large percentage of these voters are people of color, members of low-income communities and people with disabilities. What is acceptable as form of photo identification would not be decided until the amendment is voted on.

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Student Shares Life-Changing Study Abroad Experience



UNCP student Demi Meiklejohn (Right) participates in an English Learning Bridge activity in China, where Chinese students designed T-shirts based on interpretation of artwork. PN Photo/ Demi Meiklejohn

By Demi Meiklejohn
Student Contributor

My study abroad experience was definitely life changing. I spent a semester in China and learned so much that I believe, could never be formally taught in a classroom.

It was an immersive experience that taught me about different cultures all over the world.

Along with learning about other people and cultures, I was able to learn a lot about myself.

I was forced to learn how to be completely independent. Through this I learned how to speak my mind and

be more outgoing. I have also made best friends from all over the world and I feel that my knowledge has grown so much in a very short amount of time.

I was able to spend a lot of time with Chinese students through English speaking activities and through this I was able to learn Chinese also.

I was so excited to go to China because I expected it to be very different than American culture.

I was able to bring a lot of my knowledge back with me in the form of being able to understand people better.

Following my experi-

ence, I also feel like I am able to be more understanding, respectful, and open to people in all different situations of life.

I enjoyed China so much. It is very different from America, in my opinion.

I enjoyed being able to go to the city center of Nan-jing and see all of the high buildings and the different shops. I also enjoyed being able to go to different parts of town and seeing very old, traditional Chinese architecture.

I feel like I would never be able to have an inter-national experience such as this without the help of

UNCP. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be more globally aware and learn from the best kind of experience.

China was the perfect place for studying abroad, for me, because I think that it's so rich in culture that is so different than my own.

Leaving my comfort zone was something I would never have liked to do before. But, for me, jumping head first, completely out of my comfort zone, really improved me as a person and I will never regret it.

Open Mic Night is a Success!

By Madison Long
Staff Writer

Students gathered in the UC Lounge on Oct. 10, for an open mic night, hosted by Phi Beta Sigma and Inkwell.

Anyone was welcomed to sign up and share their creativity in front of the audience.

The night allowed students to share their talents with peers, as some performed their writings and

songs for the first time in front of anyone.

"I thought it was really great how students were so confident in sharing their writings and songs in front of the audience," said senior Morgan Love.

The rooms were filled with poetry that cited stories of personal experiences in relationships.

One student shared about how promise rings was a symbol of promising to love them.

A popular topic of discussion was love, while some speakers shared blissful experiences with it, others shared their experiences of heartbreak and broken promises.

One of the speakers stated, "Just enjoy what you have until it's gone."

Additionally, October 10 is well known as Mental Health day, a fact that some students paid tribute to in their performances and writings.

This night also allowed people the opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions in front of people they otherwise might not.

Original songs and raps were also performed by students, which displayed how talented and gifted a lot of our students here at UNC Pembroke are.

"I thought there were fresh faces and fresh ideas through the entire open mic night," stated junior, Alyssa Cureton.

The Pine Needle
The University of North Carolina
at Pembroke

Founded in 1947

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applications for the spring semester!

WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!

Available positions include:

- Photographers
- Sports Staff Writers
- Assistant Advertising Manager
- Web Editor
- Cartoonist
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Contact us at pineneedle@uncp.edu to
learn more!

Campus and Community

RELIEF & REBOUND

for Hurricane Florence Victims

FREE YARDSALE

SATURDAY
November 10th 8:00 am- 12:00 pm
UNC PEMBROKE OLD MAIN QUAD

- Accepting Donations:**
- Clothing (washed, folded, bagged/boxed by sizes)
 - Household Items
 - Nonperishables
 - Canned Goods

Items can be donated to **Old Main Room 149**

Contact:
Club president: Alexis Clinton, agc014@bravemail.uncp.edu
Club advisor: Sallyann Clark, sallyann.clark@uncp.edu 910-521-6378

BEASC SPONSORED EVENT

“Just Talk to People Like They are Human, Don’t Assume For Them” UNC-Pembroke Discusses Life With Disabilities

By Octavia Johnson
Around Campus Editor

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) and the Office of Campus Engagement and Leadership (CEL) held their biweekly intersectionality dialogue series, “I’m Just in it for the Parking” from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in UC room 208 on Oct. 17.

The discussion was hosted by Robert Canida, director of diversity and inclusion, Mary Zets, biology professor and Dr. Velinda Worix, chair in the biology department.

The discussion started both of the speakers talking about the difficulties that they faced on campus while being in a wheelchair.

Zets was trying to get into Oxendine but someone had their bike parked in the middle of the ramp so she couldn’t get through to get inside the building.

One student said they were taking their dad to Walmart and was trying to get him a motorized shopping cart but some kids were riding on them.

They felt it was difficult to determine whether the kids were just playing on them or they had disabilities themselves. It was hard to determine and they really

needed the motorized shopping cart.

Zets even saw someone with a Disabled Parking sticker taking up two parking spaces.

They both talk about the lack of accessibility that they found throughout their time being in wheelchairs. Worix was going to a professional meeting and she told them that she was in a wheelchair and why so that there would be a good amount of preparation before she got there. On her flight, there were three other people who needed wheelchair assistance so Worix let the flight attendants tend to the others first. When she got off of her flight she had trouble carrying her luggage and no one from the airport assisted her.

“There are a lot of people working at the airport but they’re not looking to help you because they are doing other things,” she said. “Most of the time the airlines don’t really have people on board to help folks that are in my situation.”

When Worix arrived at her hotel, she knew there wasn’t a shuttle. Although she was concerned about how she was going to travel, the people at the hotel were there to help her.

“I was fortunate that there were people in the hotel that were willing to take me down where I needed to go,” Worix said.

The hotel she stayed at was very old and historical so it was hard for her to get through her door in a wheelchair even though the room was accessible for people with disabilities.

She also found out her meeting was half a mile from the building which meant having to navigate through the traffic on the sidewalk and road.

They also talk about how sometimes when people see someone with a physical disability they tend to think that they have a mental disability too. Instead of asking how can they help that person with the disability they assume and attempt to help not knowing they could be doing more harm than good.

Worix talks about making accommodations with the labs that are on campus to make them more wheelchair accessible.

“Sometimes I would have to ask my students nicely can they move a little or move their bookbags so that I can have to room to move and help them,” she said.

Zets even discussed

about people rushing to help her without really asking. Sometimes people rush in assuming that a person with a disability needs help. Even though it is nice for people to help sometimes it does more harm than good when some people jump in to help instead asking the person if they need it.

“Just talk to people like they are human,” she said. “Ask them, don’t assume for them.”

Discussion picked up with most of the students agreeing that there needs to be an accommodation for people with disabilities.

One student said talking to the next generation is very important for them to understand that people are still people. From some of their family members being disabled, Zets gives them her opinion on how to help accommodate.

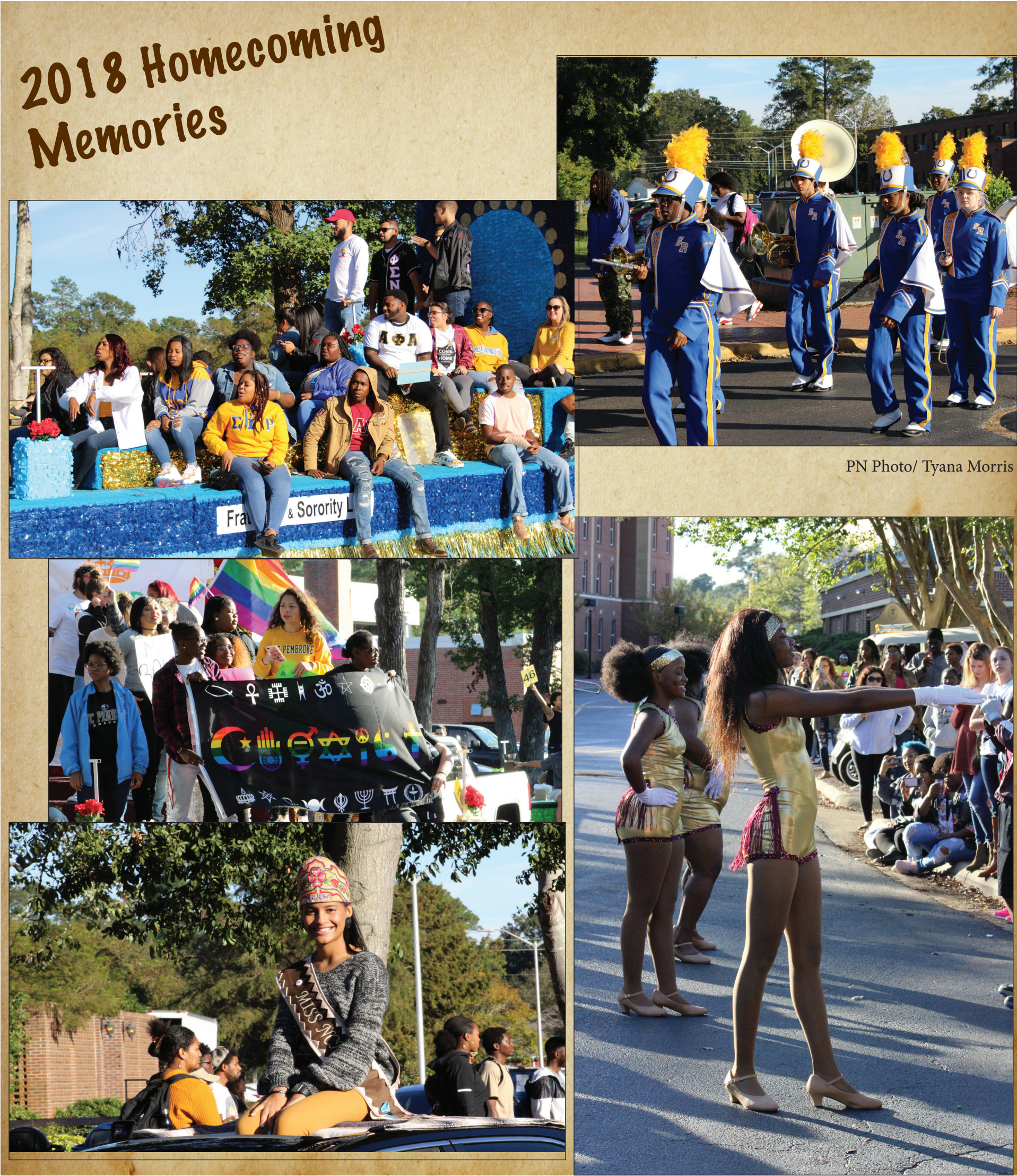
Zets is a supported of universal design and believes if people focused on more universal design for teacher building and classrooms. For example, having more ramps so that everyone can walk on it because most students who are not disabled still walk on the ramps. Building wider doorways can help everyone be able to get into different rooms.

The students at the discussion learned that some generations used different terms when describing someone who is disabled. The two special guests, Director of the Accessibility Resource Center Nicolette Campos and Assistant Director of the Accessibility Resource Center Vanessa Hawes suggested to students to use the statement “a person with a disability” when referring to anyone who is disabled.

Towards the end of the discussion, Zets talks with the students about some people who fear using certain accessibilities. Some are afraid of how their family will react to them using crutches or a wheelchair. Some are scared of doing job interviews because they fear they won’t get the job with a disability. Zets had some encouraging words for the people who have a disability and are afraid to use their accessibilities.

“Just because your body works differently doesn’t mean you can’t do the same things as other people,” she said.

Then the discussion ends with Zets showing a video of her jumping out of a plane on her birthday.



PN Photo/ Tyana Morris

JUMP from page 1

not be decided until the amendment is voted on.

Legislature to Control Judicial Appointments Amendment: “Constitutional amendment to change the process for filling judicial vacancies that occur between judicial elections from a process in which the Governor has sole appointment power to a process in which the people of the State nominate individuals to fill vacancies by way of a commission comprised of appointees made by the judicial, executive, and legislative branches charged with making recommendations to the legislature as to which nominees are deemed qualified; then the legislature will recommend at least two nominees to the Governor via legislative action not subject to gubernatorial veto; and the Governor will appoint judges from among these nominees.”

EXPLANATION: This amendment alters the process of appointing judges. The Governor is solely in charge of this but if the amendment passes it will be delegated through Legislature,

the Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court, the General Assembly as well as the Governor. Together they will create a list of appointees that have been deemed qualified for the position. NC Legislature would then pick two names from said list and allow the Governor to pick one.

Party Leaders in Legislature to Control Ethics and Elections Board Appointments Amendment; Eliminate Non-partisan Representation on Board: “Constitutional amendment to establish an eight-member Bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement in the Constitution to administer ethics and elections law.”

EXPLANATION: One of the most controversial of the proposed amendments, all previous chief justices as well as governors have opposed this amendment. Creating an eight-member board will broaden the possibilities of having “deadlocked” votes on pressing issues considering both parties get to pick four members of the Ethics and Elections Board.

On Oct. 16th, candidates from local

elections came to UNC-Pembroke to talk about their campaign issues in an annual ‘Popcorn and Politics’ session. Libertarian Jeff Scott, Democrat Charles Graham, Democrat Matt Scott, Republican Allan Adams, Democrat Angelica Chavis McIntyre and Democrat Judge Vanessa Burton were the candidates present on the popcorn and politics panel.

The discussion for the night started with introductions about what campaign issues the candidates felt were important not only to them, but to Robeson County.

State Representative Charles Graham led the discussion for the night beginning with a highlight on the importance of education. “Without an education, you become a liability,” Graham said.

“Education, when we look at the economy as we look at job opportunities, as we look at improving opportunities for everyone - education is the key.”

Some key campaign issues Graham also mentioned that were important to him were affordable housing, healthcare and living wages.

District Court Judge Vanessa Burton was the next candidate to speak on the ballot. Being a prosecutor since 1989, Burnes was the first woman to serve woman to serve in the District Attorney’s office. Burnes’ monologue was centered around serving for the people and appointing judges who care about the people in Robeson county. “We need judges who care about people and believe that each person that comes into that court has a fair and equal opportunity to be heard and that they are treated with dignity and treated with respect and that they are fully informed when they come into

court,” Burton said

“You as young voters... you’re going to have challenges, but you have a great opportunity during this election cycle to research the information about the candidates and so I encourage you to vote.”

The transition from local races shifted to a federal race for a U.S House of Representatives seat as Libertarian Jeff Scott was the next candidate to speak. Unlike the previous two candidates, Scott focused on issues that were not necessarily at the state and local level. Proclaiming himself to be the only “anti-war” candidate in the race for district 9, Scott started with denouncing the war in Afghanistan and ended with attacks on both of the other district 9 candidates.

The fourth candidate on the panel, Jerry Lowery centered his speech about allocating more resources to Robeson county to lower crime and overall improve the quality of life for the people in Robeson county. “You see, in North Carolina it’s not really about left versus right - it’s about rural versus urban. And unless legislators in rural areas work together, we’ll continue to be left behind,” Lowery said.

There were two candidates running for District Attorney, Democrat Matt Scott and Republican Allan Adams are both running for District

Attorney. Allan Adams focus is on tackling crime and drugs hard in Robeson county. Serving in the county’s teen court and fighting sex crimes as a prosecutor, Adams’ devoting to hitting crimes hard displayed during the panel. Scott focusing on a lighter approach to address the route of the issue, drug addiction and mental health.

The final candidate was Angelica Chavis McIntyre running for NC District Court who currently works as a prosecutor in the district. McIntyre believes in paying attention to and serving the youth

All of the current races that will be on the ballot this year are the US House of Representatives district 9, NC State Senate District 13, NC House of Representatives District 47, District Attorney, Board of Commissioners, Clerk of Superior Court, Sheriff, Nc Supreme Court Associate Justice, NC Court of Appeals Judge and NC District Court Judge.

North Carolina’s 9th congressional district is a national spotlight for congressional democrats chances for taking back the house this November. In order to take by the U.S House, democrats must flip 24 seats as the 9th district can be seen as a national marker for how well the democrats’ chances are for doing so.

News Briefs



- A train crashed into a crowd celebrating Dusshera, a Hindu festival that was located near Amritsar, India leaving 59 people dead and 90 with injuries on October 19. Part of the celebratory crowd moved onto the train tracks and many family members as well as friends protested on the same tracks the following day. Protesters have demanded action against the driver of the train and answers from the state government.
- The Ocean Cleanup Foundation has been testing out a new approach to collect pollution in the Pacific Ocean for the past five years. The 2,000 foot long pipe is named “Wilson” and is in the form of a U-shape with net connected to it that will go three meters underwater to pick up trash that floats below the surface. Every few months workers plan to collect the debris and return it back to land where they hope to recycle and reuse the plastic. OCF hopes to pick up an average of 50 tons of trash by next April.
- As parliamentary elections began October 20 in Afghanistan, the Afghan National Security Forces upped their military personnel from 50,000 to 70,000 to guard the 21,000 polling stations located across the country. Multiple violent demonstrations went on throughout the day starting as early as 9:30 a.m.. A suicide bomber killed three and injured six at a polling station located at a school in Kabul, Afghanistan. The Islamic State group and the Taliban warned people to stay away from polling stations as well as to not have polling stations located at schools.
- After the Trans Union of Uruguay got over 60,000 signatures for support of the Comprehensive Law for Trans People, Congress in Uruguay passed the new law that allows transgender people to get sexual reassignment surgery to match their sexual identity as well as receive hormone therapy. The law will work to protect the rights of transgender community members as well.
- Nathan Alan Knauf, a student of Georgia Tech University filed a civil battery complaint against Georgia Republican Sen. David Perdue on Monday following an incident last week in which the senator was caught on video grabbing the student's phone. The lawsuit Knauf filed seeks jury trial, damages, attorney's fees and costs from Perdue.
- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Monday that there are 155 patients under investigation this year for acute flaccid myelitis, a condition that can cause paralysis and mostly affects children. Of these, 62 have been confirmed by the CDC in 22 states, and the remainder continue to be investigated.
- A suspected intruder was shot while trying to gain entry to a news station in Washington D.C. Monday afternoon, according to the station. Fox 5 DC reports that the suspect was trying to get into their office in Friendship Heights when the incident took place. Source familiar with the matter told ABC News that the suspect who was shot was known to law enforcement authorities and is believed to have a history of mental illness. D.C. police are investigating the incident and exactly what led the officer to discharge his weapon.

Benefits of Free Mental Health Services on Campus

By Sara Bowling
Staff Writer

The Counseling and Psychological Services, more commonly known as CAPS, is a great tool in the arsenal of FREE resources at UNC Pembroke.

Not only does CAPS specialize their psychological services for their patients, they also host many campus events throughout the year.

CAPS is located on the second floor of the Health Services building. Their mission statement is simple: “The mission of the Counseling and Psychological Services is to provide services for students struggling with issues that affect quality of life. Our focus is of a developmental and preventative nature to help students learn to balance their lives.”

The staff are committed to helping students in any way they can. They can also link students to outside resources, such as the

CARE center.

The first thing a student should do when seeking the use of CAPS is attending a triage appointment. These are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As the student walks in, they are greeted by one of the receptionists on duty and escorted to a set of computers to fill out necessary paperwork. During the wait, CAPS offers cold bottles of water, the use of a Keurig machine, and a number of clipboards with coloring pages on them; they try to make their clients feel at home and relaxed.

The counselors all try to help the situations in a student’s life. Each has their own specialty, such as gambling and eating disorders, but all can help in those suffering with stress, anxiety, and things of the like.

For those who need it, there is also a psychiatrist within the staff, who can pre-

scribe medication, if absolutely necessary.

One of the best things that they offer is the use of CARE reports. One can submit a CARE report about a friend that they believe might be in need of help.

In emergency cases such as threatening their life or others, please contact the authorities. Otherwise, this is a great tool to seek help for a friend in need, whether academically or socially.

For those who are just looking to support the services, always be on the lookout for activities in the UC that CAPS hosts (all are listed on BraveConnect). They often do wellness screenings, just for a quick check up on stress and other basic psychological needs. Also, CAPS will also be hosting their “DE-STRESS FEST,” where you can enjoy time with friends and paint items, such as ornaments, as a way to take a break from the finals.

Alpha Phi Alpha Hosts “Keep Your Cool,” Equips Students with Skills for the Job Interview

By **Jasmine Mason**
Asst. Campus Life Editor

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the Career Center joined together to make a program to help improve student’s ability to succeed during interviews of any job or career choice.

During the event, students exercised to practice situations that may happen during an actual interview.

They helped students learn ways to sharpen their interview skills so that they have a better experience and better chance at getting that job or getting involved with a company

or organization. Director of the Career Center, Marlane Mowitz shared tips on how to lower stress before entering an interview, how to talk, when to shake hands and how to introduce yourself.

Mowitz said students need to learn how to market themselves while in the interview process.

She also shared the common mistakes people make during their interview.

Her discussion offered students helpful tips to eliminate those factors to increase chances at succeeding in their interview.

They reviewed several questions to study and learn so it will not come as a surprise if the interviewer asks those same questions.

“The event was to help educate the college community on what to do in a interview and business setting,” Alpha Phi Alpha member, Cory Brown said.

Another member of Alpha Phi Alpha, Justice Sincere Boykins said they wanted to help develop leaders, promote academic excellence while providing service and advocating for their campus community.

Immunization Prevents International Students from Withdrawing from Program

By **Naveed Ahmed**
Student Contributor

Many academic and exchange students who were on the edge of withdrawal from their classes at UNCP, received their immunization for Hepatitis B on Wednesday, Sep. 26th.

Many international students were unable to provide full records of their immunizations to students health services center, because they had not previously taken the shots, and didn’t have them.

According to state law of North Carolina, every international student, studying in the any institute of NC must have their complete immunization records. Absence of complete medical records can withdraw students from their classes.

“All students are required by North Carolina Immunization

Branch to have certain vaccines before attending universities. They do allow a 30 day grace period for students to receive their vaccines. Students who don’t have vaccines could carry a disease that could affect others around them,” Cora Bullard, director student health services center said.

The date for vaccination was changed due to Hurricane Florence because a lot of students were leaving campus, Bullard further said.

The deadline to submit records was Sep. 15, but all the activities were canceled due to the hurricane.

So, students were allowed to provide their records later.

Students also received Sep. 19 as a tentative date for getting their shots.

Again, the university couldn’t make it that day. Finally, on Oct.

26, students received their shots on campus.

Amanda Goforth is the University Program Associate at Office of Global Engagement.

According to Goforth, “The Office of Global Engagement worked with Student Health Services to make sure all of our students received their immunizations. Student Health Services arranged for Walgreens to come to the campus and give international student their immunizations.”

Goforth further added that previously they used to take international students off campus to get their shots.

However, this was a lengthy process and over-stressed county health department.

This time it worked more efficiently and they are hoping to continue it in future semesters.

Upcoming Events

Oct.
24

Equality vs-Equity: We All Bleed The Same 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., UC room 208. I Am Boss and the Office for Diversity and Inclusion are working together to have a discussion about what makes someone not like a person based off of their looks.

#SelfieEvent 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., UC Lounge. Putting cutouts around mirrors or picture frames that define yourself.

Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar 6:20 - 8 p.m., UC room 208. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc- Pi Lambda chapter and guest speaker Jeneen Sinclair will give a seminar on how to do a self breast examination, as well as answer any questions pertaining to breast cancer.

Build-A- Bra Workshop 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., UC room 213. I Am Boss will be hosting a Build-A-Bra Workshop. Participants will be decorating Bra’s with rhinestones, flowers and ribbons. Bras will be placed in shadow boxes and donated to a charity or a survivor (of their choice) of Breast Cancer.

Oct.
26

Phi Mu Alpha Annual Pumpkin Carving 3 - 6:30 p.m., Water Feature. Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia’s Annual Pumpkin Carving will raise non-perishables to donate to the CARE Resource Center.

Oct.
27

Brunch with a Boss 12 - 2 p.m., UC Lounge. Workshop featuring keynote speaker Dr. Calvin Ellerbe. The topic of discussion will be “The True Meaning of a Boss.” Subtopics: how to live a healthy lifestyle, time management and effective communication.

Oct.
29

Haunted Library 7 - 9 p.m., Mary Livermore Library. Join Livermore Library as they turn the building into a bone-chilling experience with two escape rooms, pumpkin and skull decorating, candy bar and fun.

Oct.
30

Discussing Race in the South 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., UC Annex. Braves Dialogue discussion on race in the Southeast United States, the Office for Diversity and Inclusion.

Social Justice Symposium Dismantling Racism and Discrimination 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., UC Annex. The Office for Diversity and Inclusion and the Social Justice Committee will present the 11th Annual Social Justice Symposium, shining a spotlight on “Dismantling Racism.” The keynote speaker is Dr. Karen Gaffney.

Oct.
31

Halloween Costume Social 7 - 9 p.m., UC Lounge. I Am Boss and Brother 2 Brother will be hosting a Halloween Costume Social. Prizes will be given to the “Most Scariest Costume” and “Most Creative Costume.” Participants will have to sign up to compete.

Nov.
1

HallowQueen Bash 7 - 11 p.m., UC Lounge. Spectrum is hosting a cultural showcase event for students to experience entertainment from Drag Queens/Kings.

Nov.
2

4th Annual Womens Leadership Conference 3 - 7 p.m., UC Annex. Campus Engagement and Leadership will host the Women’s Leadership Conference with workshops, speakers and discussion panels.

Campus Movie Fest 8 - 10 p.m., UC Annex. Campus MovieFest is a student film festival, where students can make a movie in one week. The movies will be shown in the UC Annex on Friday, Nov. 2.

Nov.
5

Movie Night: ONE VOTE Documentary 7 - 9:30 p.m., UC Lounge. Students can watch a movie on the issues that are affecting democracy in America.

Nov.
7

FREE Mental Wellness Screenings 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., UC Mall. Counseling and Psychological Services will have a table for mental wellness screening before finals.

Success Over Stress 12 - 4 p.m., UC Lounge. PAC is hosting an event where students can relax and learn tips, tricks and tools on how to distress.

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ATTENTION, ART MAJORS!

Enter to Win \$15 Starbucks gift card!

- We are holding a competition to revise our nameplate at the top of our front page!
- We will name the winners at the end of this semester and incorporate the new design in our spring edition. Deadline for submissions is Nov. 20, 2018.
- We would like our new nameplate to incorporate the following components: the words “The Pine Needle,” the presence of a hawk and the phrase “Founded in 1947.”

For additional questions or inquiries, contact us at pineneedle@uncp.edu.



Braves Fall to Marauders 44-38 In A Shootout

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The stage was set for the UNCP football team to pick up their first win in over a month before the Braves offense, despite having an impressive outing, came up just short and the highly touted “Code Black” defense was unable to get a key stop when it mattered most.

Follow two extremely underwhelming and debilitating home losses in back-to-back weeks, the Black and Gold offense came to life and showed out in the team’s match up with the Marauders of Central State University at McPherson Stadium in Wilberforce, OH on Oct. 13.

After only being able to just seven points off of a single touchdown in their previous two games combined, the unit exploded in this contest and racked up 38 points and nearly 400 yards of total offense in their best performance since their match up with ECSU.

The first quarter got off to as bad as a start as the Braves could’ve imagined as they surrendered 21 points and 223 yards on offense to the Marauders.

While they put up 10 points off of an Alex Alvarado field goal and a 37-yard touchdown strike to receiver Tyshawn Carter from quarterback Josh Jones, they still faced a 11-point deficit after the

first 15 minutes of the game. Thanks to a bad snap on the Central State’s first drive of the second quarter, the Black and Gold were set up with great field position at the CSU 34-yard line.

After running back Josh Jones rushed three times for 24 yards, the Braves cut the lead to within four when Jones found tight end Jalen Nixon on a 10-yard touchdown pass.

The Marauders would respond with two scoring drives of their own but still only held a one score lead after quarterback Josh Dale completed one of his two attempts to slot receiver Corey West for a touchdown as the Braves trailed 31-24 at the half.

Redshirt sophomore defensive back Devin Jones opened up the second half with an impressive 42-yard return to put his team in CSU territory to start the third quarter. Although the offense wouldn’t capitalize, punter Isaac Parks would pin the Marauders at their five-yard line and the defense forced a three and out.

Starting at their opponents’ 26-yard line Jones completed three straight passes and Sheridan rushed twice for 15 yards and rumbled in for the game tying score to knot the game up 31-31.

Central State would take the lead back on the ensu-

ing drive, but the Braves would take their first lead of the day after Jones orchestrated the team’s best drive of the contest.

The offense marched down the field with a balanced attack for 67 yards on 11 plays in just under five minutes and capped it off with a five-yard touchdown jaunt from freshman running back McKinley Nelson to give UNCP a 38-37 advantage.

The Braves offense stalled out in the fourth quarter and the defense would allow the Marauders to take the lead back for the final time on their second drive of the quarter after a costly pass interference penalty set them up for the game winning score.

Jones led both quarterbacks in passing yards (250), completion percentage (75%), and touchdown passes (two). He also added 34 yards on six attempts and also threw an interception.

The Black and Gold had three receivers reel in five or more catches and just about of more than 50 yards. Quay Threatt lead the group in yards with 56 and West lead the team in receptions with eight.

Sheridan led the ground game with 71 yards on 15 attempts for a healthy 4.5 per carry average and a touchdown. Nelson put up 29 yards on 5 carries and a score with a 5.8 average.

Highlights from Braves Basketball’s Moonlight Madness

By Brian Pridgen
Circulation Editor

The Braves Moonlight Madness event started off with a lot of energy and excitement from the coaches, players and the jam packed home audience at Lumbee Guaranty Bank Court on Oct.18. The players and commentator pumped the crowd up with their new introduction video showcasing some new faces.

A couple of the newest additions to the men’s basketball team are redshirt senior guard Jabrie Bul-lard, sophomore forward Spencer Levi, freshman guard Dewan Lesesne, freshman guard Michael Bramwell, junior forward Forrest Powell and junior forward Jordoun Cloud.

The new faces for the women’s team are freshman guard Naomi Gilbert,

freshman guard Danielle Heath and senior forward Deja McCain.

High flyers: The Black and Gold decided to show us their dunking abilities in a dunk contests with the players sophomore David Strother, junior Akia Pruitt, redshirt senior Shaun Kirk, Levi and Powell.

The players executed some amazing dunks, and in the end the victor ended up being the Whiteville N.C. native in Shaun Kirk with a furious throwdown that amazed the judges and crowd in attendance.

Three point shootout: The three point shootout involved two teams. The victors would eventually be the team comprised of red-shirt freshman Cam Hamilton, redshirt senior Bri-anna Braham and Isabelle Gornail won the shootout

with a score of 18 to 14. Isabelle would try her skills at making at least five shots with 10 attempts.

She finally made a shot on her final shot attempt but failed to make five she need to win, but there is a twist. She was still awarded the five hundred dollars prize for her determination and valiant effort.

Men’s and women’s scrimmage:

The women’s game was a low scoring affair due in part to great defensive efforts from both intersquad teams and the score ended up being 24 to 22.

The men’s scrimmage also had didn’t result in many points being scored due as a result of great defense as well and the final score for their contest would finish at 39 to 31.

Takeaways from Football vs Central State University

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The Braves traveled to the state of Ohio in search of their first win in over a month and while their offense rebounded from two vastly underwhelming performances at home, it still wasn’t enough to get a win against the CSU Marauders. There were some noteworthy performances from the 44-38 loss that were both impressive and debilitating.

Run defense was porous yet again:

For the third straight week the UNCP defense allowed the opposition to amass just about or surpass 200 yards of total net rushing yards, two 100-yard rushers and six rushing touchdowns.

While the defensive line tends to be strong at the point of attack, poor tackling at the second and third level of the defense have led to long runs and manageable passing downs for their opponents.

Special teams quietly made big plays:

Redshirt sophomore punter Isaac Parks once again shined at preforming his craft as he racked up 129 yards on three boots and downed two of his kicks inside of the 20-yard line.

His only punt of the second half was downed at the five-yard line and after the defense forced a quick three-and-out, the offense was set up in great field position and would score on the ensuing drive.

Redshirt sophomore defensive back Devin Jones had a nice day returning as racked up 109 yards on five kickoff returns, including a 42-yard runback to open the second half.

Pass catchers stepped up but struggle with drops:

Even though true freshman starting quarterback

Josh Jones had a very efficient completion percentage of 75 in this game it could have been even higher had it not been for several drops by multiple pass catchers. Jones wasn’t completely absolved however, as he often drifted back in the pocket and threw off of his back foot as opposed to stepping up in the pocket and planting his feet to make throws.

Pass rush was nonexistent:

After logging four sacks against Wingate the week prior, the Black and Gold’s pass rush was nowhere near as effective in this outing as they only managed to register one sack and one quarterback hurry.

Against a young offensive line, the Braves’ defensive line was expected to take advantage of their inexperience, but the Marauders found a way to neutralize the pass rush by rolling the pocket and letting their mobile quarterback throw on the run.

Running game is heating up:

After failing to eclipse 60 yards rushing in either contest of their two game homestand, the Braves ground game finally got going and surpassed the 100-yard mark for just the second time this season with 126 total net yards.

Pass protection has impressive outing:

The Black and Gold had a solid showing from their own young offensive line as they provided a relatively clean pocket for the Braves’ quarterbacks to throw and routinely gave them ample time to go throw their progressions. After allowing multiple sacks in each of their previous games this year, the unit only surrendered a single sack and one quarterback hurry to CSU.



Despite a huge bounce back performance from the offense and quarterback Josh Jones, the Braves came up short in the state of Ohio. PN File Photo/Trevon Knight

Soccer Crushes Patriots 5-0

By Ky’Aire Goode
Asst. Sports Editor

Senior forward Stacey Scott scored three goals and UNCP’s home shut-out streak extended to five games as the Braves dominated USC Aiken at Lumber River EMC, winning 5-0 on October 15.

UNCP jumped out on their opponents early, scoring their first two goals in less than 20 minutes of play. Scott got off to a particularly fast start, scoring the first goal off a ground pass from teammate Christine Rolfes into the penalty area. The score came just three ticks under ten minutes into the match. Just eight minutes later, Scott followed with her second goal off the assist from Katy Ryan to make it 2-0 and ensure the team was playing with a lead the whole way.



The Braves scored the first two goals of the match in less than 20 minutes to take control. PN Photo/Trevon Knight

The scoring slowed down for the rest of the first half before Scott got things going again for UNCP with a tap-in goal assisted by Rolfes to give Scott a third goal and her first-career hat trick for the night.

“Stacey is an important part of what we do...She is a standout player, not only in the Peach Belt [conference] but on the national level as well. There’s something special about being able to say you scored a hat-trick in college and she deserves every bit of it...Every team needs a couple of players that are big-time goal scorers,” head coach Lars Andersson said about Scott’s achievement.

Bree Mason and Jillian Robson added one insurance goal each late in the second half to push the score to 5-0 as the team never let up despite holding a big lead.

“One of the things we talked about in the preseason... was the fact that we needed to score more goals... We won a lot of games [last year] by a one goal margin. We’re too good, too deep, and too talented not to score more goals. It’s great to see that we’re scoring more, getting goals from a number of players and assists from a number of players. I think that’s a great sign going forward” Andersson said of the team’s offensive effort in the game.

The Braves continue to play lights-out defense at home where they’ve out-scored opponents now 17-0 on the year. Goalkeeper Gina Ryan recorded seven more saves as the Braves never really appeared out of control in the defensive half.

Andersson acknowledged UNCP’s prowess at home defensively, but also hinted that there may be a little magic at play lending itself to the undefeated streak.

“There’s a lot of theories on that, the idea of home-field advantage... LR EMC stadium since its inception last year has been a special place for us. If there are any secrets in this place, I’m not sharing,” Andersson joked.

Braves Tie With Bobcats

By Josh Freeman and Ky’Aire Goode
Staff Writer & Asst. Sports Editor

The UNCP soccer team traveled to Milledgeville, GA on October 20 to battle the Georgia College Bobcats. The game ended in a draw. The draw marked the first tie of the season for UNCP who stretched their unbeaten streak out to four games as well. It was the second tie in the last three home contests for Georgia College.

Georgia College struck first in this game at around the 1:51 mark with a cross into the back of the net. Then less than 10 minutes later the Bobcats scored off a deflection off a free kick which put them up by 2. In the 86th minute UNCP’s Stacy Scott and Bree Mason passed the ball well enough to get Carly Rochelle open, and the redshirt junior scored to bring the score to 2-1. 91 seconds later, Rochelle and Mason assisted on Alexis Pitman’s goal which tied up the game at 2.

Rochelle logged points for the second-straight game. She also matched a season-best with three shots. This was Mason’s second multi-assist game of the season. Pittman scored her fourth goal of the season and Stacy Scott got six shots in this game and an assist for the second straight game.

While a win would’ve been preferred for the Braves, the tie comes with some silver linings. The team showed resiliency and an ability to score quickly in a clutch situation, put-

ting away two goals in a 91 second span after trailing for almost the entire match to that point. The tie looks much better for UNCP record-wise than a loss, and the points from a draw help the team’s postseason hopes more comparatively.

UNCP head coach Lars Andersson knew the team was in for a difficult match-up ahead of the contest.

“If I wasn’t coaching in college, this is a game I’d pay to see, and I’d drive to go to this game. We look forward to playing them every year,” Andersson said earlier in the week.

Aside from the late-game scoring drama, the match-up between the Braves and Bobcats also pitted two of the Peach Belt Conference’s best goalkeepers against one another. Senior Ashlee Graham defended for Georgia College, while Junior Gina Ryan minded the net for UNCP. Graham and Ryan both rank in the top 4 in save percentage in the conference, top 10 in saves, and top 6 in goals allowed on the season.

Despite the intriguing goalkeeper matchup being a main attraction coming into the game, both teams allowed two goals in a match that was a bit higher scoring than many may have expected. Andersson attributed this more to good front line play from the strikers of both teams than bad play by either of the two goalkeepers.

“[This was] a display of two of the very best goalkeepers in the conference, and also some of the best strikers,” Andersson emphasized.



UNCP tied with Georgia college 2-2 after being down 2-0 for most of the game. PN Photo/Trevon Knight

Swim Team Sets Records

By Brian Pridgen
Circulation Manager

Columbia opener

During the meet, freshman Jaycie Knight placed top honors in two events, the 50-yard free and the 100-yard back. Megan Hunter and Jaiden Estrada both grabbed titles, Hunter in the 200-yard free and Estrada in the 100-yard free.

The efforts by the Braves were amazing. They showcased their talents to the best of their abilities but fell short with a score of 77-81.

Converse women’s invite day 1

This meet was a record breaker with the freshman Bianca Bateman destroying the school record for the 100 fly by almost a second adding to her school break-

ing record. Highlights from the meet Bateman timed out with a 1:03.6 finishing in sixth place in the 100-ya fly event but later demolished the medley relay by six seconds.

Converse women’s Invite day 2

Day two was nothing less than the day before. Bianca Bateman shadowed the record in the 100 yard individual medley and our Black and Gold swimmers ended the day being top 10 finishers. Bateman beat the superlative record by .50 seconds.

UNCP placed and registered fourth place at the end of the 8th annual Converse women’s invite.

Greensboro tri-meet

In this meet Megan Hunter achieved a run-

ner-up position in the 200-yard freestyle and also obtained third place in the 100-yard butterfly and also the 500 yard freestyle this set the braves team to a split.

This marked our Braves first win with an unstoppable and astonishing score of 134-24 over the opposing team Pride. But our Braves later came up short against Roanoke with a score of 189-77.

Overall

The individual records and accomplishments show the talent up and down the swimming team’s roster. As the squad grows, practices and matures together, they’ll look to string together more wins to go along with all the accolades.

UNCP Dominates at Volleyball Tri-Match

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

In a couple of outings that featured dabs, dances, free taco giveaways and even musical chairs, It was the play of the UNCP volleyball team that provided the best and most impressive entertainment of the day. Coming off of a hard-fought match against the Peach Belt powerhouse Flagler College Saints, the Black and Gold welcomed a pair on non-conference foes to Lumbree Guaranty Bank Court on Oct.9 in what would result in a pair of displays of absolute dominance by the Braves. They churned out a pair of their most complete and strongest performances as they overwhelmed the Vikings of Elizabeth City State University and the Trojans

of Mount Olive. The Braves would sweep both opponents three nil on the day and rack up consecutive win for just the second time this season and has officially matched last season’s win total by winning four of their last five matches. “We have to have a balanced attack, so we can keep the blockers on the other side guessing where its coming from. We had a lot of people step up in the second match today and I’m just really proud of how we played overall,” said Head Coach Ellen McGill.

ECSU:

The Black and Gold would set the tone for their brilliant day of volleyball early on against the Vikings as the jumped out to a whopping 23-9 advantage in the very first set of the match. The Vikings would go on a 6-0 run

to reach double-digit points, but back to back blocks would close out the opening set for the home team.

While the Braves didn’t jump out to the same insurmountable lead in the second set as they did in the first, they used a scoring run of 5-0 to take a firm lead and scored the last eight point to close it out.

The final set started out with the visiting Vikings holding an early 9-5 lead before UNCP would knot it up. However, the Black and Gold would utilize a pair of 5-0 runs to take a larger advantage and then the other to end the match and complete the sweep.

Freshman Brianna Warren recorded a team high eight kills, junior Anna Heinz recorded the most digs with 14 and senior Bailee Jones notched 32 assists. Freshman Ashley Caesar tied with

Warren for the team lead in blocks with three a piece and tied senior Aquia Jones for the second most kills with five.

Mount Olive:

The Black and Gold would only trail once during the first set and hold leads of 12-4 and 20-7 before scoring the final five points to win the set. All the momentum from the commanding 25-9 victory had the Braves flying high.

“It sets the tone for the whole game and helps us build our confidence and lets us know that we just need to play like we know we can play and good things will happen,” said McGill.

The Trojans would not just lay down for the home team in the ensuing set however. Set No.2 saw UNCP build up a quick 6-0 lead but would only not let themselves fall behind by double-digit points

in consecutive sets. They would cut the Braves lead to just two points at 23-20 before back-to-back kills handed the Braves the win

The third and final set of the match actually saw the visiting Trojans lead for a majority of the match before the Braves went on a 4-0 run to take their first advantage and tallied six of the final seven points to secure the sweep and put a nice exclamation mark on a great day of Black and Gold volleyball.

Aquia Jones would lead the team in kills in this match with 10, and sophomore Kaila Crowder came in second with eight, two of which closed out the set. Freshman Shannon Skryd would tie Heinz for the team in digs with 14 each and Bailee Jones would register a team high 36 assists.

Women’s Soccer Rallies Late to Defeat Francis Marion

By Ky’Aire Goode
Asst. Sports Editor

A fantastic second-half save by Gina Ryan, the team’s sixth consecutive home shutout and three late goals highlighted UNCP’s seventh win of the season, a back and forth 3-0 effort over Francis Marion on October 17.

Both teams struggled to generate any real offense in the first half. The Braves rattled off 13 shots in that half but were unable to convert the chances into points, while the Patriots were stifled by the UNCP defense and limited to five shots and only one on goal as the first half closed at a 0-0 stalemate between the two Peach Belt Conference foes.

Deadlock continued into the second half, leading up to a huge, momentum-changing play for UNCP. The Patriots had taken control and kept the ball in the Braves’ half of the field, bringing pressure

and threatening to score on multiple occasions. On their best attempt, Francis Marion took a wide-open kick from the corner of the box that looked sure to be the first goal scored against the Braves this season before Ryan made a leaping, one-handed save and tipped the ball over the back of the net to stop the threat.

“When a keeper makes a save like that, you have to as a team look back there and say ‘Okay, if she’s playing like that, we have to find a way to do our job. Our job is to score...’ It’s a morale boost, it’s something that should pump you up. It puts the onus back on you,” coach Lars Andersson said of the big play.

Avoiding the potential disaster of being down 1-0, the Braves were energized by the play and seized momentum in the final 20 minutes. Bree Mason logged two goals in roughly a two-minute span, scoring the first off an assist from

Stacey Scott that Scott placed right through the hands of the Francis Marion goalkeeper for Mason to tap-in, finally breaking the tie. “I felt like if we could get one goal, maybe there would be more to follow,” Andersson said.

Now holding a 1-0 lead, Mason knocked in a wide-open kick from the far side of the net into the opposite corner on a broken penalty kick to bring the lead to 2-0 and break the will of the opponents down the stretch. Maya Grimes knocked in a dagger goal in the final two minutes off a lucky bounce between the keeper’s legs and pushed the score to 3-0 and cap UNCP’s third consecutive victory.

After the game, the team heaped praise on Ryan for the spectacular save that sparked the late rally for UNCP, but the ever-so focused goalkeeper treated the play like any other. “Whenever those saves



UNCP found a rhythm offensively late in the second half, scoring all three of their goals in the final frame. PN photo/ Trevon Knight

happen I just see the ball, try my best to get to it, make a save, do what I can to help our team out. When

I saw it was out and not in the goal I was happy and relieved...” Ryan said.

Volleyball Sweeps Converse

By Ky’Aire Goode
Asst. Sports Editor

Braves volleyball snapped a two-match losing streak on Oct. 16 and built up some much-needed momentum at home as they knocked off the visiting Valkyries of Converse in three sets.

UNCP had three Braves register double-digit kills in the match as the team flexed

Shannon and Aquia really stepped up as well, so we had a lot of options going which I think was huge for us,” coach Ellen McGill said.

McGill particularly highlighted Skryd as a standout player on the court during the game.

“I think we’ve been using her a lot...She’s been



Freshman Ashley Caesar goes up to attempt a kill against the visiting team in the 3-0 win over Converse. PN photo/ Trevon Knight

their offensive muscle against a weaker opponent. Freshman Shannon Skryd led all players with 15 kills, followed closely by redshirt freshman Ashley Caesar with 12 of her own. Senior Aquia Jones also logged 10 kills and three blocks in the victory.

The Braves ran away with the first two sets, winning them by margins of 25-18 and 25-17 as the team racked up kills. The third set was more tightly contested as UNCP went deeper into their player rotation but still pulled out the victory 25-22.

“Our offense was really clicking tonight. Both of our middles did really well and just stepped up and made some plays for us. We had some production from

getting a lot of kills so hopefully we’ll continue to be more and more consistent on the outside [with Shannon],” she said.

Due to the homecoming festivities at the match, the home crowd turnout was larger than usual for the Braves, an important advantage for a team looking to build momentum.

“It’s awesome. It makes a huge difference when we have fans there versus in an empty gym...it brings a lot of momentum. Now we have a good feeling in our stomach, good vibes going into practice. Momentum is everything in the sport of volleyball so we just gotta hope to carry that good feeling going into the weekend,” McGill said.

Soccer Gets First Road Victory in 2-0 Shutout of Georgia Southwestern

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The UNCP soccer team received a pair of great performances from two of their best players to fuel the Braves to their first road win of the season when they took down the Hurricanes of Georgia Southwestern State University 2-0 in Americus, G.A. on Oct. 13.

Stellar senior Stacy Scott registered her sixth multi-goal game of her illustrious career as she scored both of the teams points in this contest. All-conference and who sometimes seems to be All world goal keeper in junior Gina Ryan recorded the 21st shutout of her career by blanking the Canes on the road.

The win marked the second conference victory for the Braves in their last three contests and brought an end to a four-game road losing streak as well as bringing the all time series record to

13-0.

Scott scored both of the team’s goals in the first half of the game in the 24th and 43rd minute of play. The first came when she received a finesse pass from freshman Brianna De Co-teau and boomed her shot past the Canes goal keeper to put the Braves up 1-0.

The second of Scott’s two goals came in the waning minutes of the first half when she was on the receiving end of a pass from junior defender Katy Ryan that she converted into a sharp shot right through the post.

Despite their best efforts, GSW was unable to get on the board in this contest as Ryan brilliantly defended the mere seven shots that they were able to get off and notched three saves, two in the first half and just one in the second.

The Braves were excellent with their ball control in this contest and were ex-

tremely aggressive in their offensive attack and outshot the Hurricanes 24-7 on the day, 11 of which came in the first half and 13 came after the intermission.

Although she did not get on the board with a goal of her own sophomore Alexis Pittman shot a game-best five shots, which included a couple close calls as two her shots were accurately on goal. Scott was able to convert half of her four shots on goal into points for the Braves.

The team’s home dominance seemed to finally translate to a road game for the first time this season, as the offense and defense both showed up to play.

UNCP looks to continue to put their road game struggles behind them in an upcoming challenging tilt against the Bobcats of Georgia College, who they have beaten in the last four meetings between the two teams.

Braves Show Promise in Up-and-down Cross Country Season

By Brian Pridgen
Circulation Manager

Season Opener at Mount Olive

Sophomore Silus Kipkoech and senior Logan Ward both finished within four seconds of each other snatching the two top spots in the Men’s 8K race. Freshman Skylar Moreno finished third place for the Braves in the Women’s 6K.

The Braves obtained runner-up at the Mount Olive Twilight. Riley Axe placed 10th, Molly McCann placed 12th, Sam Badami placed 13th and Michaela Reynolds placed 15th for the women’s team. Jarett Arabie placed 14th, Matthew Martin placed 15th, Ean Ormsby placed 16th and Holden Newman placed 19th, snatching most of the

top 20 spots for the men’s team.

Jaguar XC Invitational

The meet was cancelled due to Hurricane Florence. UNG Invitational Freshman Joshua Chepkisir, Kipkoech and Ward all finished in the top five for the men’s team, awarding them in the runner-up position.

Moreno earned fifth place for the women’s team. Chepkisir finished the 8K with a time of 25:07.66, almost twenty seconds before his teammate Kipkoech. Ward was fourth with a time of 25:56.43. The Braves finished second out of 11 teams.

Great American Festival

Moreno beat her personal best time for the 5K run, tallying in at fourth place. Arabie achieved a new per-

sonal best in the Men’s 8K run finishing in 17th place. Overall, the Braves finished in fourth place.

Bobcat Invitational

The Braves showcased their determination and tenacity with Kipkoech and Chepkisir, once again, finishing at a close time - a difference of 0.6 seconds. Both demonstrated their record breaking skills, leading the men’s team to top honors.

Moreno chartered the way for the fourth time in the season, beating her previous time with a new record of 23:45, which placed the women’s team in eighth place out of 18.

The Braves finished first, showing that black and gold does shine bright.

Braves Extend Homecoming Winning Streak in 48-34 Win Over Mountain Lions

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The UNCP football team haven’t lost a game at Grace P. Johnson Stadium on homecoming weekend in three years, since the 2015 season and this year’s squad wasn’t looking to end that recent tradition when they took on and defeated the Mountain Lions of Concord University on Oct.20 in a 48-34 victory.

“It feels great. 3-0 the last three years in homecoming (games) so we didn’t want to lose on homecoming because our tradition is winning...things go a lot better when you’re on the winning side,” said runningback Josh Sheridan.

The Braves used big plays from all three phases of the game to end their three-game losing streak and pick up their first win in over a month. With a balanced offense and an opportunistic as well as tenacious defense, the Black and Gold we able to get up on and outpace a potent Concord offense.

“To stay balanced offensively is one of our goals and one of our objectives as a coaching staff and we want to try to do that the best we can, so it was good to see that,” said Head

Coach Shane Richardson. After yielding just a field goal on the opening drive of the game, defensive back Devin Jones put the early momentum in the hand of the home team when rocketed down the right sideline for 97-yard touchdown on the Braves first kickoff return of the game.

“I think it was a great momentum creator and a lot of guys got fired up about that,” said Richardson about what the play did for his team early on.

The Mountain Lions would respond with a quick five-play touchdown drive of their own to take a 10-7 lead, but the Braves would hit right back with a scoring drive that ended with runningback McKinley Nelson catching back to back passes with his second being a seven-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Josh Jones.

“My confidence is growing every week. I feel like I have the teammates that encourage me everyday in practice and we get better and I really think that helps as an offense which is my confidence in them and their confidence in me,” said Jones.

Concord would take the lead back almost midway

through the second quarter 17-14, and after the offense stalled out on a couple drives the coaching staff inserted quarterback Josh Dale in the game with five minutes left in the opening half.

Dale completed his only throw of the drive on his first attempt as the Braves rumbled their way down the field on the ground with runningbacks Josh Sheridan and Quadrin Williams who combined for 48 rushing yards before Dale would give his team the lead back21-17 with a seven-yard touchdown rush of his own.

The Black and Gold would go up 28-17 with 15 seconds left in the second quarter with a quick 14-yard touchdown strike to Quay Threatt in the back of the endzone from Jones.

The short scoring drive was set up after defensive end Tyler Hinton strip sacked Concord’s quarterback and linebacker Amari Brice-Greene returned the fumble deep into the den of the Mountain Lions.

The Braves would go up 35-17 on their second drive of the third quarter after Jones hit tight end Tyzaiah Eller for a 40-yard pick up and then dumped the ball



Runningback Josh Sheridan gets to the edge of the defense for a big gain. PN Photo/Trevon Knight

off to Sheridan for a 25-yard chunk. Sheridan would cap off the drive on back to back rushes for six yards and a touchdown.

The fourth quarter was a back and fourth shootout with the two teams trading blows in the passing game with Concord refusing to go down without a fight. Dale completed his two of his three completions on the day in this quarter and they both went for long touchdowns.

The first came on a shovel pass to Williams in which he weaved through the defense and took it 47 yards to the house and the second put the game away for good when he found tight end Jalon Nixon on a 27-yard dart off of a play action rollout.

“I was just trying to play my best every time I got in there and that’s what I did. I

just took advantage of what I had...and I just did what I had to do,” said Dale

Quick Stats: Quarterback Josh Jones lead both passers in yards (153), completions (14/20) and completion percentage (70). Sheridan lead the team in rushing with 81 yards on 16 carries for a touchdown ad a healthy 4.9 average. The Braves had nine different pass catchers register a catch for a combined 242 yards and four touchdowns.

Defensive end Tyler Hinton lead the team’s pass rush with 3.5 sacks and forced a fumble that led to a eventual touchdown. Defensive back Josh Manns led the team in total tackles with seven and fellow defensive back Jordan Howard registered a game sealing interception that ended a last-ditch comeback effort by Concord.

Takeaways from Football’s Homecoming Victory

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The Braves got back on track with their 48-34 victory over the Concord University Mountain Lions on Oct. 20 in front of a rowdy homecoming crowd at Grace P. Johnson Stadium. The team was received big contributions from all three phases and had stand-out performances across the board.

After allowing just a single sack and just one quarterback hit against the Marauders, the Braves young offensive line starved the Mount Lions pass rush and kept the quarterbacks clean as well as paved the way for 136 net rushing yards.

“When you can get the quarterback time to look downfield and have time to make decisions and even have time to scramble and be able to create plays it’s a really positive thing for the offense,” said Head Coach

Shane Richardson. “They’re young but they’re getting better every week as zero sacks showed tonight...My confidence is growing in them and they’re the same with me,” said quarterback Josh Jones. Offense Scores Over 30 Points Again:

For the second consecutive week the Black and Gold offense were able to put up 30-plus points. They did so with a well-balanced run-to-pass ratio that produced two rushing scores and three through the air. Shovel Pass Strikes Gold for Offense:

The offense utilized the “shovel pass” play on a couple of occasions in this game and even had one break big for a 47-yard touchdown as running back Quadrin Williams scored his first in two seasons on the extended hand off from quarterback Joshua Dale. The play can be seen in offenses at every level of the sport from pros to Pop Warner and the Braves offense

proved how effective it can be when executed properly.

“I like the play. It’s a real good momentum booster, especially when we get big runs on it because it just opens up. Our offensive line opens up a big hole for the running back, it just gives him space to move,” said Dale.

Running Backs and Tight ends Shine in the Passing Game:

The Offense got huge contributions from the tight end position as well as their backfield as five of nine players that registered a catch weren’t wide receivers. The Braves had a pair of tight ends make a pair of big plays in Tyzaiah Eller whose lone catch picked up 40 yards that extended an eventual scoring drive and Jalon Nixon’s only catch was a 27-yard catch and run for a touchdown that put the game away for the Braves in the final minutes of the fourth quarter.

Running backs Josh Sheridan took a dump off

pass for 25 yards, Williams scored on his only catch and McKinley Nelson caught two pass that included a seven-yard touchdown.

“It shows that we have a lot of weapons. It’s not just one man, one guy catching the ball, one guy running the ball. We have different styles that we play which helps out. Quad is the speed back, I’m more of the power back and McKinley is kind of both,” said Sheridan.

“They provide a safety blanket...You love to hand the ball off to them and watch them do what they do and then when its not looking good down field then you have them to dump it off to and they make plays with the ball,” said Jones. Both Quarterbacks Make Plays with Their Legs:

Both of the UNCP quarterbacks combined for 34 of the teams 136 rushing yards and a touchdown. While that only accounts for a fourth of the net yards

gained, it was what they did with those rushing attempts that made a difference. The majority of Josh Jones’ runs resulted in first down and Dale’s only rush ended with him waltzing into the endzone for a 7-yard score that put the Braves up 21-17 in the second quarter. Hinton Nearly Breaks Sack Record...Again:

Senior Tyler Hinton essentially was the team’s pass rush on the stat sheet in this contest as his 3.5 sacks nearly accounted for all four of the Braves’ sacks on the night and was just a half a sack shy of breaking the program’s single game record that he holds yet again.

“He’s been good. I think he puts a lot of pressure on the quarterback and he’s a captain for a reason, guys look up to him. He carries a lot of influence so he’s continually trying to use that influence to try to rub off on all the younger guys and all the guys that look up to him,” said Richardson.

Special Teams Has Major Impact in Braves Win Over Concord

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

Devin Jones Provides Spark in Return Game: Special teams can often be the spark that ignites a team in the onset of games, the flame that sparks the flint for a comeback or the pendulum swing that carries the momentum back in a team’s direction.

Defensive back Devin Jones provided that spark for the Braves in the return game and his 97-yard kickoff return touchdown

not only put the team ahead and incite cheers from teammates as well as the home crowd, but it changed the way the game would be played the rest of the way.

“It’s fun to watch Devin. He’s extremely fast and smart with the ball in his hands. He knows what he’s doing and when he gets going, not a lot of people are going to be able to stop him. When we see points go up on the board and we really didn’t have to do anything, we love it,” said quarterback Josh Jones.

From that point on he only managed to add just 19 more yards to his 116-yard total because the Mountain Lion kickoff specialist was either instructed or made a conscious decision himself to make a concerted effort to stay away from giving Jones more opportunities.

“Devin Jones is electric, and we know that. There’s things we’ve been working with him on in practice and throughout preparation to try to get him these opportunities and to even create them better for himself and

to see him be able to take advantage of that...it was good to see,” said Head Coach Shane Richardson.

As a result, their kicker decided to use multiple squib kicks (shorter kicks up the middle) in a maneuver to limit or neutralize Jones’ ability to use his game changing ability. The threat of Jones was advantageous to the offense as their average starting field position following kickoffs were at least their own 30-yard line and even as far up as the 44-yard line after his

opening scoring jaunt. “He’s a very positive factor when he gets those opportunities and unfortunately teams get smart and they keep the ball away from him so we just have to work with that,” said Richardson. **Parks’ Punts Continue to be a Weapon:** Punter Isaac Parks was fantastic again in executing his masterful punts. He finished with 183 yards and averaged 45.8 yards a punt, with his longest being a 54 yarder.

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